

drove the Chevy Volt and look forward to driving the Ford Focus, an all-electric car.

We can reduce our dependence on oil if the U.S. Senate will get the message, get off the dime, and pass a clean energy bill like we have in the House to reduce our dependence on oil and reduce the threat of these horrendous oil spills.

□ 1030

INTRODUCING H.R. 5126, "HELPING SAVE AMERICANS' HEALTH CARE CHOICES ACT"

(Mr. FLEMING asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, last week, I introduced H.R. 5126, the Helping Save Americans' Health Care Choices Act.

This important legislation restores the popular Health Savings Accounts and Flexible Spending Accounts, which are diminished through taxation and restrictions under ObamaCare.

Millions of Americans rely on HSAs to cover deductibles, insurance copayments, over-the-counter medications, and a plethora of other medical expenses. Furthermore, it is an excellent tool to cut health care costs while ObamaCare, itself, provides no such tools. I find it extremely ironic that the name of the current law, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, betrays the fact that it drives up costs for patients and for their employers.

If you truly support health care affordability, I ask all of you to support H.R. 5126, which restores this valuable tool that saves costs.

DEMOCRATS' JOB CREATION

(Mr. BOCCIERI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOCCIERI. Mr. Speaker, can you believe it? The United States House of Representatives under Democrat majorities have delivered the largest tax reductions in America's history to middle class families. That's right. Ninety-five percent of American workers got a tax cut in the stimulus bill. The stimulus bill acted as a backstop against further job loss, and it helped create some jobs along the way, like what is happening in my district.

Americal, in Canton, is adding hundreds of jobs. LuK USA, which makes drive trains for the automotive industry, invested \$18 million with a \$2 million tax abatement that was handed out through some of our recovery efforts, and now they're adding another \$60 million investment in expansion. Tekfor just added another \$31 million in expansion. These are real signs of economic life and prosperity right in the heartland of Ohio.

Let me remind my conservative friends on the other side, amidst the

constant drumbeat that we hear from conservative talk radio, that this is the record, that this is the record of job losses and that this is the record of job recovery that we have seen under this administration and under this leadership.

EXTEND SECTION 45G, THE SHORT LINE RAILROAD TAX CREDIT

(Mr. LEE of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LEE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express the need for an extension to the section 45G short line railroad tax credit which expired at the end of 2009. The expiration of this tax credit means that railroads, such as Rochester & Southern in my district, have had to curtail much needed maintenance to their infrastructure. The expiration of this tax credit affects nearly 500 lines across the country.

Originally enacted in 2004, section 45G ensures that the lighter density freight lines can invest enough in their infrastructure to stay connected to the national rail networks. With the discontinuation of this tax credit, railroads such as Rochester & Southern will be unable to do effective long-term capital planning.

Having run a business myself, I know how difficult it can be for a company to plan and to invest when continued uncertainty exists in how their expenses will be offset. That's why we need to pass an extension of the section 45G tax credit now, so we can put people back to work and so we can provide stability for both the workers and the companies which manage the nearly 500 short line rails across this country.

DISASTER IN THE GULF

(Mr. HASTINGS of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, the very first thing I want to do is to express my condolences to the 11 persons who were killed on the oil rig in the gulf.

We are faced in this Nation, certainly in the gulf and along the Atlantic coast region, with the potential for a disaster of epic proportions, but the time now is not for us to get involved in blaming someone but, rather, in doing the things that are necessary to cap this gusher and to accelerate attention to clean energy.

Yesterday, Commandant Thad Allen, Interior Secretary Ken Salazar, Commerce Secretary Gary Locke, EPA Secretary Lisa Jackson, and persons from NOAA gave me the assurance, which I hope to convey to my constituents and to those of us who are concerned, that they are doing everything humanly possible to stop this disaster and that they will, assuredly, continue to do the same.

RESILIENCE AND DETERMINATION

(Mr. CAO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CAO. Mr. Speaker, for the past several weeks, the eyes of the world have been directed to the oil spill in the gulf coast. People have been watching, hoping, and wondering:

How many lives will it claim? How many thousands of barrels of oil will it leak? How many years will it set back our efforts to rebuild our delicate coastal wetlands? How many livelihoods of fishermen and longshoremen will it destroy?

The Federal Government's response this time, fortunately, has been swift. As I told Secretaries Napolitano and Salazar as we flew over the affected area this weekend, we are grateful for the care, concern, and compassion they are showing the gulf coast.

Yet we in Congress must also perform our role by being vigilant and by focusing on providing immediate assistance with the containment—with cleanup initiatives that will ensure the accountability of those at fault and with the acceleration of Louisiana's oil and gas revenue-sharing, which, without legislative changes, will not allow Louisiana to receive money to rebuild our coastal wetlands until 2017.

Louisiana has taken up the call to address the country's energy needs. It is time this country heeds the call of Louisiana for the money to restore our coast.

NATIONAL TEACHER WEEK

(Ms. TITUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, today, I join with people across the country to celebrate National Teacher Week, which recognizes the exemplary and important work that teachers do in classrooms every day.

Research has shown that a good teacher is one of the most important factors in a student's academic success, so it is only appropriate that we take time during National Teacher Week to say "thank you" to these heroes who positively affect so many lives.

We must also support teachers during these tough economic times by investing in education. I was proud to support the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which saved more than 1,000 jobs for teachers in southern Nevada, and the Jobs for Main Street Act, which passed the House and included a \$23 billion jobs for education fund.

With hundreds of thousands of teachers across the country facing potential pink slips because of budget crises at the local and State levels, I urge my colleagues in both Houses to work quickly to support education by saving vital teaching jobs throughout the country.